



# TREASURE VALLEY

ADA, ADAMS, BOISE, CANYON, ELMORE, GEM, OWYHEE, PAYETTE, VALLEY, & WASHINGTON COUNTIES

## EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

The May 2002 seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the Boise City Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), which includes Ada and Canyon Counties, was 4.6 percent, as shown in Treasure Valley Table 1. This rate was down one-tenth of a percentage point from April's rate of 4.7 percent, and up six-tenths of a percentage point from May 2001's rate of 4.0 percent. The number of individuals employed increased from April to May by 1,000 individuals, while a decrease of 100 occurred in the number of unemployed individuals, from 11,700 in April to 11,600 in May. The increase in the number employed and the decrease in the number unemployed created a net increase in the *Civilian Labor Force* of 900 individuals from April to May 2002; year-over-year, there was a net increase of 2,400 individuals in the *Civilian Labor Force*. Treasure Valley Table 2 shows the May 2002 seasonally adjusted labor force figures for all counties in Southwest Idaho.

Treasure Valley Table 2: May 2002 Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Figures for Southwest Idaho Counties				
	Civilian Labor Force	Number Unem- ployed	Percent Unem- ployed	Number Employed
Ada	182,459	7,526	4.1	174,932
Adams	1,595	178	11.2	1,417
Boise	2,728	134	4.9	2,594
Canyon	69,896	4,075	5.8	65,821
Elmore	9,713	622	6.4	9,091
Gem	6,145	500	8.1	5,645
Owyhee	4,262	209	4.9	4,053
Payette	9,761	695	7.1	9,066
Valley	4,023	329	8.2	3,694
Washington	4,444	366	8.2	4,078
Statewide	687,313	34,605	5.0	652,708

About 1,500 *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* were added to the Boise City MSA between April and May 2002. There was an increase of 700 *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* since May 2001. A month-over-month change does not make a trend; however, the ad-

Treasure Valley Table 1: Boise MSA Labor Force & Employment  
Ada and Canyon counties

	May 2002*	April 2002	May 2001	% Change Last Month	% Change Last Year
<b>INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE</b>					
<b>Seasonally Adjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	252,400	251,500	250,000	0.4	1.0
Unemployment	11,600	11,700	10,100	-0.9	14.9
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.6	4.7	4.0		
Total Employment	240,800	239,800	239,900	0.4	0.4
<b>Unadjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	252,000	250,300	249,600	0.7	1.0
Unemployment	11,000	11,600	9,500	-5.2	15.8
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.4	4.6	3.8		
Total Employment	241,000	238,700	240,100	1.0	0.4
<b>JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK</b>					
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**</b>	232,500	231,000	231,800	0.6	0.3
<b>GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES</b>	50,900	50,600	53,900	0.6	-5.6
<b>Construction &amp; Mining</b>	16,500	16,200	16,800	1.9	-1.8
<b>Manufacturing</b>	34,400	34,400	37,100	0.0	-7.3
Durable Goods	26,000	26,100	28,500	-0.4	-8.8
Lumber & Wood Products	3,200	3,100	3,100	3.2	3.2
Wood Buildings & Mobile Homes	800	800	800	0.0	0.0
Other Lumber & Wood Products	2,400	2,300	2,300	4.3	4.3
Fabricated Metal Products	1,200	1,100	1,200	9.1	0.0
Ind & Com Mach & Computer Equip	7,200	7,200	8,000	0.0	-10.0
Electronic & Other Elect Equip. & Comp	11,100	11,200	12,700	-0.9	-12.6
Transportation Equipment	1,700	1,700	1,700	0.0	0.0
Other Durable Goods	1,600	1,800	1,800	-11.1	-11.1
Nondurable Goods	8,400	8,300	8,600	1.2	-2.3
Food & Kindred Products	5,700	5,600	5,800	1.8	-1.7
Canned Cured & Frozen Foods	1,700	1,700	1,800	0.0	-5.6
Printing, Pub & Allied Products	1,900	1,900	2,000	0.0	-5.0
Other Nondurable Goods	800	800	800	0.0	0.0
<b>SERVICE-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES</b>	181,600	180,400	177,900	0.7	2.1
<b>Trans, Comm, &amp; Public Util</b>	12,300	12,200	12,500	0.8	-1.6
Transportation	6,900	6,800	7,000	1.5	-1.4
Comm & Elec, Gas & Sanitary Ser	5,400	5,400	5,500	0.0	-1.8
<b>Trade</b>	56,700	56,500	56,600	0.4	0.2
Wholesale Trade	13,000	12,900	12,700	0.8	2.4
Durable Goods	8,000	7,900	7,800	1.3	2.6
Nondurable Goods	5,000	5,000	4,900	0.0	2.0
Retail Trade	43,700	43,600	43,900	0.2	-0.5
General Merchandise Stores	5,600	5,500	5,500	1.8	1.8
Foods Stores	7,300	7,300	7,700	0.0	-5.2
Eating & Drinking Places	15,700	15,700	15,500	0.0	1.3
Other Retail Trade	15,100	15,100	15,200	0.0	-0.7
<b>Finance, Insurance, &amp; Real Estate Services</b>	11,900	11,800	11,400	0.8	4.4
Business Services	63,700	63,200	62,100	0.8	2.6
Health Services	14,000	13,800	14,700	1.4	-4.8
Hospitals	19,100	19,200	17,800	-0.5	7.3
Hospitals	9,100	9,200	8,100	-1.1	12.3
Eng, Acct., Res, Mngmt., & Related	5,400	5,400	5,100	0.0	5.9
Other Services	25,200	24,800	24,500	1.6	2.9
<b>Government</b>	37,000	36,700	35,300	0.8	4.8
Federal Government	5,400	5,200	5,200	3.8	3.8
State Government	13,700	13,700	13,100	0.0	4.6
Education	4,600	4,700	4,300	-2.1	7.0
Administration	9,100	9,000	8,800	1.1	3.4
Local Government	17,900	17,800	17,000	0.6	5.3
Education	11,800	11,800	11,200	0.0	5.4
Administration	6,100	6,000	5,800	1.7	5.2

\* Preliminary Estimate

\*\*Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

dition of 1,500 jobs is a welcome occurrence. In *Goods-Producing Industries*, there was a gain of 300 jobs month-over-month with the only job losses occurring in *Electronic & Other Electrical Equipment & Components Manufacturing* (100) and *Other Durable Goods Manufacturing* (200). Job gains occurred in *Mining & Construction* (300), *Other Lumber & Wood Products Manufacturing* (100), *Fabricated Metal Products Manufacturing* (100), and *Food & Kindred Products Manufacturing* (100). The year-over-year data is quite different as *Goods-Producing Industries* lost 3,000 jobs. Job losses occurred in: *Mining & Construction* (300), *Industrial & Commercial Machinery & Computer Equipment Manufacturing* (800), *Electronic & Other Electrical Equipment & Components Manufacturing* (1,600), *Other Durable Goods Manufacturing* (200), *Food & Kindred Products Manufacturing* (100) and *Printing, Publishing & Allied Products Manufacturing* (100). *Other Lumber & Wood Products Manufacturing* (100) was the only *Goods-Producing Industry* to create new jobs over the year. The large decrease in the number of jobs in *Industrial & Commercial Machinery & Computer Equipment Manufacturing* and *Electronic & Other Electrical Equipment and Components Manufacturing* is consistent with the number of layoffs that have occurred in those industries since January 2001.

*Service-Producing Industries* gained 1,200 jobs between April and May 2002. Job losses in *Health Services*, primarily *Hospitals* (100) and *State Government Education* (100) were outpaced by job increases in *Transportation* (100), *Durable Goods Wholesale Trade* (100), *General Merchandise Stores* (100), *Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate* (100), *Business Services* (200), *Other Services* (400), *Federal Government* (200), *State Government Administration* (100), and *Local Government Administration* (100) to create the net increase in the number of *Service-Producing Industry* jobs over the month. Over the past year, there was an increase of 3,700 jobs in *Service-Producing Industries*, with job gains in *Durable Goods Wholesale Trade* (200), *Nondurable Goods Wholesale Trade* (100), *General Merchandise Stores* (100), *Eating & Drinking Places* (200), *Finance, Insurance & Real Estate* (500), *Health Services* (1,300), primarily *Hospitals* (1,000), *Engineering, Accounting, Research, Management, & Related Services* (300), *Other Services* (700), *Federal Government* (200), *State Government Education* (300), *State Government Administration* (300), *Local Government Education* (600), and *Local Government Administration* (300), outpacing job losses in *Transportation* (100), *Communications & Electricity, Gas & Sanitary Services* (100), *Food Stores* (400), *Other Retail Trade* (100), and *Business Services* (700).

## AREA DEVELOPMENTS

### Boise City MSA

- Construction will begin at the site of the Veltex gas station on the corner of Fifth and Main Streets in downtown Boise this fall. The five-story, 50,000-square-foot mixed use building will include retail and office space as well as five luxury penthouse

condos and underground parking. The Veltex sign currently on the property will be placed on the new Veltex Building when construction is complete.

- Costco plans to build a new store off Cole Road south of the Boise Spectrum. The proposed 166,451-square-foot store will feature a 16-pump fuel station, 885 parking spaces, a 5,200-square-foot tire sale and installation center, and a 5,980-square-foot garden center. Nearly 11,000 cars are expected to drive to the location daily; Costco and ACHD have been negotiating a deal to alleviate some of the traffic, although no official statements have been made.
- Best Buy opened its first Idaho store in the former Home Base building on Franklin Road in Boise in mid-June. The retail store sells a large selection of name-brand consumer electronics, personal computers, software, and appliances and employs 150 full- and part-time employees.
- The Boise City Council voted in late June to spend \$15,000 for a public design session, tentatively scheduled July 29-30 for interested persons to get together and brainstorm ideas for the proposed branch library at the corner of Cole and Ustick Roads in Boise. Two libraries are planned for the city with one at this location in west Boise and the other planned for somewhere in southeast Boise; the total cost of both libraries will be \$13 million, and they could open as soon as 2004.
- Several new stores recently opened at Meridian Crossroads Shopping Center at the corner of Eagle Road and Fairview Avenue. These include Marshalls, a discount clothing and giftware retailer, Avonlea, a gift and home décor store that opened in June, and Quizno's, which recently opened its seventh Treasure Valley sandwich shop. Businesses with plans to open in the area in the next few months include Goodwood Barbecue in October and a Fantastic Sams salon.
- The Eagle City Council authorized spending \$4.3 million for a new city hall. The city wants to build a new, 22,000-square-foot city hall on Amanita Street between the library and the post office. The city still needs to give final approval for the project; however, a public hearing must take place first for citizens to comment on the building design. No date was set for the public hearing; groundbreaking is scheduled for October and the building should be completed by summer 2003.
- Recent business happenings in Ada County include several new openings. Some are: a Home Federal Savings branch at 871 East Parkcenter Boulevard in Boise, Claiborn Waite Consulting LLC at 3550 East Commercial Court in Meridian, Club Mantis at the Sports Pub & Grill in the Spectrum Center. Expan-

sions include Catalina's Taco Loco located at 4518 Overland Road in Boise and Riverside Embroidery & Screen Printing located at 753 Meadowland in Boise. Idaho Insurance Associates moved its offices to 2417 Bank Drive in Boise, Tuesday Morning, a specialty discount retailer, plans to open a store at the corner of Fairview and Milwaukee in August, St. Lukes Regional Medical Center leased space on Americana Boulevard and Shoreline Drive for an outpatient imaging center scheduled to open in January, IHOP announced plans to open its third Treasure Valley restaurant on Emerald near Boise Towne Square this fall, and construction of a Jack in the Box will start in late summer or early fall on Capitol Boulevard near BSU.

- RidgeRun, a Boise high-tech firm, closed its doors in late June, creating job losses for 30 employees. The company made a software platform for the emerging "smart phone" market, and leased office space in downtown Boise.
- Extended Systems sold its Singapore subsidiary to a company owned by the subsidiary's manager and a private investor. The \$1 million deal includes a variety of assets, including office equipment, and will allow the Singapore operation, Brookhaven Asia Ltd., to work in conjunction with Extended Systems as well as build its own products. The deal is part of an ongoing move by Extended Systems to become solely a software manufacturer. The company also announced a Bluetooth development and marketing alliance with California-based Conexant Systems, Inc. The alliance will involve merging products from both companies to create a simple, "drop-in" solution for manufacturers of Bluetooth headsets and peripherals. Bluetooth is protocol software developed by Extended Systems.
- ProClarity, a Boise software company, recently announced the opening of a regional office in Germany. The office is based in Bad-Homburg outside of Frankfurt and will serve as the regional headquarters for Austria, Germany, and Switzerland. This opening is the fifth regional office in Europe and will enable ProClarity to better serve its existing distributors, partners, and customers in that region. For the second consecutive year, ProClarity recently received the DM Review World Class Solution award in the business intelligence category for its implementation of the program at the Department of Veterans Affairs Northwest Network. The award recognizes strategic implementations that represent world-class initiatives in business intelligence, analytic applications, data acquisition and integration, and data management.
- An AutoZone store was built at 308 North Tenth Avenue in Caldwell. McAlvain Construction was

awarded the contract and the 7,500-square-foot building was completed in late June/early July. AutoZone also plans another location in Nampa, scheduled to open this fall. The retail outlet offers a broad range of auto replacement parts, accessories, chemicals, and motor oil.

- Farm & City Supply, located at 5520 East Franklin Road near the Idaho Center in Nampa, held a grand opening celebration in early June. The store carries high-end horse tack, veterinary supplies, feed, hay, shavings, shoeing supplies, trailer equipment, pet supplies, western wear, and gifts.
- Groundbreaking occurred on the new Caldwell Fire Department substation in late June. The building will be built near Oregon Street and Ustick Road and will house one engine company to cover the medical runs and fire calls of the area. The 6,000-square-foot building is estimated to cost between \$650,000 and \$900,000. No completion date has been announced for the project.
- Construction of the new sports arena near the Idaho Center in Nampa has begun. The building was enclosed in early July, and completion for the 100,000-square-foot Sports Center is scheduled for September. The first event in the new arena will be the Idaho Cutting Horse Association's state competition; the Sports Center will house the association's new headquarters.
- Recent business happenings in Canyon County include the opening of Freedom Skate Shop at 822 Arthur in Caldwell, the opening of the Birds of Prey Harley Davidson store in Caldwell, and the closing of the Red Eye Hut on Caldwell Boulevard in Nampa.

## **ADAMS COUNTY**

- The Council Hospital District was awarded a \$38,000 Rural Health Care Access Program grant by the State Office of Rural Health of the Idaho Department of Health & Welfare in early June. The grant will be used to pay part of past educational expenses for the community's physician's assistant.
- Several projects recently approved by Adams County include the construction of a snowmobile parking lot in Price Valley, riparian fencing on Council Mountain and at Anderson Creek, and new equipment purchase for the county cooperative weed management association.

## **BOISE COUNTY**

- Bogus Basin Ski Resort recently announced long-term plans to provide nearly two-and-a-half times the existing facility space. The current space is about 41,000-square feet and will increase to about 100,000-square feet of space. Plans include expanding the

main base area and some work to Pioneer Lodge. Eventually, officials would like to see a separate ticket sales building, a new ski rental shop, a retail operation with ski accessories, a ski school, child-care facilities, child learning center, and new housing for the race team. Early estimates regarding the cost of the project is \$7 million. A dramatic increase in the number of skiers and snowboarders in recent years indicated a need for the expansion.

### **Elmore County**

- The Mountain Home Air Force Base (MHAFB) lost two squadrons in early June due to restructuring. When the 22<sup>nd</sup> Air Refueling Squadron and the 34<sup>th</sup> Bomb Squadron left the 366<sup>th</sup> Wing at Mountain Home, MHAFB held a departure ceremony for the departing squadrons witnessed by several hundred civilians and Air Force members. The ceremony included a formal farewell salute, patriotic music and warrior songs by members of the Shoshone-Paiute tribe. The departure resulted in a loss of about 335 persons, but those positions will be replaced by the end of summer.
- The city of Mountain Home held a groundbreaking ceremony for the new Mountain Home police station. The building is expected to be finished before winter and then the inside will be completed. The building should be open by the beginning of summer 2003.

### **Gem County**

- The Gem County jail bond passed in June after eight failed attempts. Nearly 75 percent of the voters supported the ninth jail bond. Now that the \$2.5 million bond passed, the Citizens' Jail Committee still has work to do such as setting up site surveys and making sure that the building is constructed properly. Construction of the building is scheduled to start in September 2002 and be completed within 12 months.
- Recent business happenings in Gem County include the opening of Autumn Court located on the corner of South Johns Avenue and East Twelfth Street. The company offers housing in a secure environment for seniors or those with health issues when living in a larger home is no longer possible. Also opening in Gem County is the Rumor Mill Bakery and Gift Shoppe.

### **Payette County**

- Property located at the corner of Sixteenth Street and First Avenue South in Payette, owned by Suzanne Boyle, was donated to the city in mid-June. Boyle and her family would like to see the site become a seasonal farmers market or park. No additional information was provided on what the city may do with the donated land.

### **Valley County**

- Valley County commissioners gave WestRock final approval to start work on the four-season resort. WestRock officials continue to discuss infrastructure improvements and upgrades necessary to begin construction. The first phase of construction is expected to begin sometime during the summer of 2004 and will include a golf course, mountaintop restaurant and retail building, a fire station, ski lifts, and 20,000-square feet of commercial space.
- Whitetail Club, the former Shore Lodge, and a new 18-hole golf course opened to the public in mid-June. Shore Lodge closed in September 1999 for a remodel. It then changed owners, name, and focus. Over the past few months, Whitetail has hired 125 employees and put finishing touches on the 77-suite hotel. Company officials announced that the lodge amenities will only be available to lodge guests, members of Whitetail Golf Course, and special events participants. However, the general public was allowed to use the restaurants, swimming pools, and other amenities until July 17. This may be extended as the business managers discuss the future of Whitetail.
- Recent business happenings in Valley County include the following openings: TNT Skateboard Shop in downtown McCall, Native Visions in McCall, West Bridgewater Antiques in New Meadows, and CrossRoads Antiques in New Meadows. A change in ownership of Alpha & Omega Computers in McCall occurred as Mile Leavitt assumed ownership of the business from Bill Orton. Kate Farmer joined the four other physical therapists at Pro-Active Physical Therapy in McCall. Meg Fairfield joined Rumors Salon in McCall as a massage therapist and Candy Kibby joined the salon as a stylist.

### **Washington County**

- The National Oldtime Fiddlers' Contest and Festival celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in Weiser this year. The annual festival was held in mid-June. More than 350 fiddlers played in various competitions, more than 1,100 volunteers monitored the festival that featured cow pie bingo, karaoke, high-tech virtual fiddling, a carnival, booths, entertainment, and Bikers Rodeo, in addition to the thousands of fiddlers and spectators that lined the streets of Weiser.

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